SIGNAL OIL COMPANY

Tacoma, Washington
March 10, 1950

A. B. Burnham
Seattle, Washington

Confirming our conversation of yesterday it is my intention to leave the employ of the Company. I would appreciate being released as soon as possible without inconvenience to Mr. Pulliam. However, I believe he will not need me after the 15th of the month.

My decision to leave the Company has resulted from the change of operation in Tacoma. Since to remain with the Company would make a move necessary, I feel that you will understand my motive in resigning. We have lived in Tacoma for the past sixteen years, established a home and made many friends here, we feel that we would not care to leave now.

Yours very truly
W. L. Huber
W. L. Huber

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SIGNAL OIL COMPANY

Tacoma, Washington

Mason 10, 1920

Huber's staying was mighty close

By HOWARD FERGUSON
TNT Staff Writer

In 1950 there came a day when Walter Huber just had to make up his mind. His job was phasing out and he had been looking. He had resigned himself to the probability of leaving the state. Then he heard about "this accounting job at a hospital" and took it.

On August 5 Huber, 68, will retire after 24 years with Tacoma General Hospital. His title is president and chief executive officer.

"It was a very close thing," Huber remembers. "I had only two weeks to go and I was all prepared to leave and this thing opened up and I just fell into it.

"I knew nothing about hospitals. I had never even been a patient in a hospital."

FOR SOMEONE WHO didn't know what he was doing, Huber has done well. Seven years after joining the hospital staff he was named administrator, then to the top job.

When Huber joined TG its assets had, just reached $1 million. Today they total $11 million. "I recall very clearly that we had $97,000 worth of accounts receivable. I probably shouldn't use this terminology but the board worried itself sick over this.

"Now we look at $3 million in accounts receivable."

THAT MONEY WORRIES Huber, both as a bookkeeper and as a man.

"I think you have to live with a hospital to learn about what it's like. It's not a matter of becoming involved with the hospital but of being absorbed by it. You have no idea how much of your life it can influence.

"I have tried to meld together the business aspects and the medical. The business side is needed. But you cannot forget the humanitarien aspect.

"We had to do this with our accounts receivable and with our collections. You know there is that great story about going to the hospital and you get well and then you get the bill and you are sick again. There is some truth in that."

Huber's solution was a social service department "where we work with people to try to solve some of their problems."

It is unusual for Huber to speak that much about anything. A short, quiet, soft-spoken man, his life has been marked more by accomplishments than headlines.

Staff photo by Bob Rudsit

Walter Huber reminisced

Although he runs a business with a $12 million annual budget and an $8 million payroll, The News Tribune file on Huber contains just five brief clippings dated between 1955 and 1966 (including one about his being named president of the state's Association of Hospital Accountants).

"I'm not a colorful person," Huber says. "I guess I have just plugged along and done what is necessary."

AMONG THE THINGS he plugged along" at was carrying out the 1960 TG building program, being chief staff officer for the present building program that will replace the hospital's medical facilities, leading the fight for safety and professional training programs that have made TG's staff one of the most expert in the state, helping set up standard accounting systems for all hospitals.

Most of this has been detailed, business-type work and Huber admits "sometimes you have to wake yourself up and remember that there are a couple of hundred sick people out there."

"I think the thing that impressed me most when I found myself in this wonderland was the approach medical people take toward patients.

"The medical gown is the guarantee of equality. The medical approach is directed toward the problem not toward the individual.

"I don't know if I'm saying this right. But you bring a guy in from off Skid Road and there are all those doctors around him, trying to help him. They are looking at how to solve the medical problem not whether this is a guy who is worth saving for the community.

"Everybody gets the same treatment. That has impressed me t e most."

WHEN HUBER—born in Chehalis and a University of Washington business administration graduate—retires he doesn't really "have any great plans." He and wife Verna "aren't much for travel." And their two sons, Robert and James are grown and on their own.

But . . .

"I think life will be interesting. I am not going vegetate. I suppose I will also find some way of being useful."

...s gather convention

...or the deaf

...nesses for Jehovah's message."

The zeal with which Jehovah's Witness carry out that resentment, Ruud acknowledged.

"People think we're trying to pester them," he said. "We're not. We have such happy news we want to share it with everyone we can. You're selfish if you have something good and fail to share it."

THE MESSAGE, generally, is that Armageddon is fast approaching. The world of government by men will end, and God's kingdom will be established on earth.

Though it might not seem so to many people, the impending apocalypse is good news, Ruud added.

"If you're going to build a nice apartment building in a slum, you have to destroy the slum first. The wicked system on earth has to be destroyed before a paradise can be built for all of us.

"Humans will live in peace and harmony, and that's what we're all looking forward to."

Another convention official, Harvey Harkema of Seattle, has been a Jehovah's Witness for 64 years. He was one even before they took the name Jehovah's Witnesses in 1931.

"THERE WEREN'T more than 4,000 of us then," he recalls. "We were a pretty small band."

Today the Witnesses have

Trident environmental statement called deficient

By ROBERT MOTTRAM
TNT Staff Writer

SEATTLE — The Puget Sound Governmental Conference adopted a resolution Thursday saying the Navy's Trident environmental impact statement was deficient.

The Navy issued a draft statement this spring, outlining the impacts expected from the $500-million nuclear submarine facility at Bangor on Hood Canal.

The conference resolution maintained the impacts "have not been fully identified and adequately assessed . . ."

It urged the Navy to:

— Estimate the increased costs the project will place upon local governments and school districts, estimate the amount of tax revenue a similar project would generate if it were privately owned, and identify alternative financial resources available "to make up the difference;"

— Seek congressional funds to relieve the burden imposed by Trident;

— Provide an assessment of the consequences of a lengthy delay in the Trident program, or of its elimination, at various points in its development;

— Seek federal funding assistance for a housing study in Kitsap County, including a determination of the need for government-subsidized housing;

— Seek federal legislation to provide in-lieu payments to local government to compensate for property tax exemptions of on-base housing;

— Provide more explicit descriptions of transportation impacts, needs and alternative solutions;

— Assist Kitsap County and the City of Bremerton in a study of the need for, and the cost of, an expanded transit system to serve Trident employment and related growth;

— Analyze the impact of freight movement on the region's transportation system;

Evaluate alternatives for the movement of goods by water, rail, highways and air;

— Analyze methods of dealing with the possibility that the number of persons attracted to the area will exceed the number of jobs available;

— Outline Navy intent toward implementation of an affirmative action employment program; and

— Assess the increase in pollution potential in Hood Canal and methods for deal-

Nixon asked to seek OK for Nazi leader's release

The Tacoman whose duty it was to keep Germany's Rudolf Hess confined in Spandau Prison after the Second World War now wants him released.

Col. Burton C. Andrus (U.S.A. ret.) has telegraphed President Nixon, urging him to seek Hess' release when the President visits the Soviet Union next week.

Col. Burton C. Andrus (USA-ret.) of Tacoma today urged President Nixon in a telegram to seek the release of Rudolf Hess, former German officer confined in Spandau Prison since the Second World War.

The telegram was timed to reach the President as he prepared to leave for the Soviet Union. Hess, convicted of war crimes, cannot be released

Andrus was in charge of security during the international war crimes tribunal at Nuremberg and later was governor of Spandau Prison in Berlin where leading Nazi war criminals were incarcerated.

In the telegram, he urged Nixon to secure Hess' release for "humanitarian reasons," noting that the one-time No. 3 man in Germany is now 82 and in failing health.

"Hess could no longer be a danger to any segment of society," he said, in an offer to "suffer any inconveniences and go to any effort to assist in this matter."

Hess, who has been behind bars since he parachuted into Britain May 10, 1941, is the only prisoner left in